

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01 EUR-25 DRC-01 CU-04 /125 W

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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, CH

SUBJECT: ANTI-LIN ANTI-CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN IN SHANGHAI AND KIANGSU

REF: STATE 020731

1. SUMMARY. A VISITING DELEGATION OF AMERICAN EDUCATORS HAS CONFIRMED REPORTS THAT IN SHANGHAI THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN TO CRITICIZE LIN AND CONFUCIUS HAS REACHED A HIGH LEVEL OF INTENSITY. THEIR OBSERVATIONS INDICATE THAT SOME ATTACKS ON LOWER-LEVEL CADRE MAY BE TAKING PLACE THERE. IN KIANGSU PROVINCE, BY CONTRAST, THE CAMPAIGN SEEMS SAFELY CONFINED TO THE NATIONAL-LEVEL GUIDLINES.
END SUMMARY

2. PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY GROUP (REFTEL) ARRIVED PEKING FEBRUARY 21. GROUP LEADER OSWALD AND SEVERAL COLLEAGUES, INCLUDING PROFESSOR PARRIS CHANG, CALLED AT USLO SAME AFTERNOON AND RELAYED THE FOLLOWING IMPRESSIONS OF SHANGHAI, WUHSI, SOOCHOW, AND NANKING.

3. IN SHANGHAI, THE CAMPAIGN TO CRITICIZE LIN PIAO AND CONFUCIUS WAS IN FULL SWING DURING THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 10-14, WITH BIG-CHARACTER POSTERS EVERYWHERE. SHOP WINDOWS ON NANKING ROAD WERE PLASTERED WITH SO MANY CARICATURES THAT A BYPASSER SOMETIMES COULD NOT SEE THE GOODS ON DISPLAY. STANDARD SLOGANS PREDOMINATED, BUT
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CHANG WITNESSED ONE EPISODE INDICATING SOME SCOPE FOR INDIVIDUAL

INITIATIVE. A MAN OF ABOUT THIRTY DRESSED LIKE A WORKER WAS SEEN PASTING UP A LONG GRIEVANCE LIST WHICH HE HAD WRITTEN HIMSELF ON TWENTY SHEETS OF A LOCAL NEWSPAPER. CHANG DID NOT HAVE TIME TO READ THE POSTER CAREFULLY, BUT IT APPEARED TO CRITICIZE THE MAN'S SUPERIOR, A GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRAT, AND COMPLAINED THAT PARTY OFFICIALS HAD DONE NOTHING TO CORRECT ALLEGED ABUSES. THE DELEGATION REPORTED AN UPSURGE OF CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES ON FEBRUARY 14, THEIR LAST DAY IN SHANGHAI, WHEN A NEW RAFT OF POSTERS SUDDENLY APPEARED, ALONG WITH SLOGANS WRITTEN IN WHITEWASH DIRECTLY ON WINDOWS AND WALLS. CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE GUIDES IN SHANGHAI APPEARED NERVOUS ABOUT DELEGATION MEMBERS EXPLORING THE CITY ON THEIR OWN. INTERVIEWS WITH OFFICIALS OF SHANGHAI MUNICIPALITY WERE QUOTE NOT CONVENIENT UNQUOTE, AND A MEETING WITH FOREIGN LANGUAGE INSTITUTE STAFF MEMBERS TOOK PLACE, AT CHINESE INSISTENCE, IN THE DELEGATION'S HOTEL RATHER THAN AT THE INSTITUTE.

4. NANKING MADE A SHARP CONTRAST TO CHANGHAI. POSTERS AND CARICATURES WERE IN EVIDENCE THERE, BUT ONLY INSIDE BUILDINGS OR COURTYARDS. CTS GUIDES WERE MORE RELAXED, GROUP MEMBERS STROLLED FREELY IN THE STREETS, AND PROVINCE-LEVEL EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS WERE NOT TOO BUSY TO RECEIVE THEM. WHEN QUESTIONED WHETHER NANKING WAS QUOTE TO THE RIGHT OF SHANGHAI UNQUOTE, LOCAL HOSTS HOTLY DENIED THE CHARGE, BUT DID ADMIT THAT NANKING HAD A QUOTE DIFFERENT STYLE UNQUOTE.

5. WUHSI AND SOOCHOW FELL SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN SHANGHAI AND NANKING IN RESPECT TO THE INTENSITY OF THE CAMPAIGN. POSTERS APPEARED ON OUTSIDE WALLS, BUT CONTENTS WERE CONFINED TO NATIONAL LEVEL SLOGANS.

6. THROUGHOUT THE VISIT, CHINESE HOSTS SHOWED NO RELUCTANCE TO DISCUSS THE ANTI-LIN ANTI-CONFUCIUS MOVEMENT, BUT THEIR EXPLANATIONS CAME QUOTE STRAIGHT FROM THE PEOPLE'S DAILY UNQUOTE. THE CHINESE OFTEN RAISED THE ANTONIONI FILM IN CONNECTION WITH THE CAMPAIGN, BUT DENIED THAT THE ATTACKS ON IT ARE PART OF A WIDER ANTI-FOREIGN INITIATIVE.

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